

Dear Mr. Stokes:

I was very glad to learn that a recent workshop held by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), a government agency that researches the health effects of environmental hazards, addressed the feasibility of replacing the LD50 animal tests completely with in-vitro cell culture tests. Scientists at the NIEHS workshop have agreed to a partial implementation of in vitro testing, to set a "starting dose" for the lethal poisoning tests, which would have the effect of further reducing the number of animals in these tests.

I strongly urge you to initiate a permanent plan for using in vitro testing and permanently abandoning the LD50 test. Thank you.

Linda & Ron Richardson